

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday June 15, 2015
Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center

The regular meeting of the Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Monday, June 15, at the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center. The following commission members were present: DD Dawson, Anthony Hill, Brent Holsinger, John Marr, Deanna Reed, Joe Riley, and Ritchie Vaughan. Also present were Lee Foerster, David Wigginton, and Wanda Jones from Parks and Recreation.

1. Welcome – DD Dawson opened the meeting and welcomed all present.
2. Approval of April and May Meeting Minutes – with May being a tour meeting and the only discussion being a power point presentation on the City's MS4 Storm Water Management Plan, the April meeting minutes were approved with unanimous vote.
3. Presentation by Westover Waves Swim Team Administration - Kate Derrick, a coach with the Westover Waves Swim Team gave an brief overview of what the Westover Waves Swim Team is and what they hope to accomplish.
4. Review of "Plan Our Park" Presentation to City Council – Lee gave a power point presentation reviewing the plan presented to the City Council for a downtown park. This park will consist of a great lawn, a promenade, a play area for children, and an expanded farmers market. It will be located behind the City Hall.
5. Status of Superintendant of Parks Position – Jeremy Harold has been hired into the position of Parks Superintendant. Ted Pelikan retired on April 4th. Jeremy has worked for the parks maintenance department for 11 years and comes highly qualified.
6. African American Festival June 20th – This will be the 22nd Festival. This festival started out as a neighborhood event and has grown to encompass the city with lots of outside visitors.
7. Suggestions for July, August Commission Meetings – It was suggested that the July meeting be postponed and the August meeting be held at Hillandale Park to look over the Rocktown Trails.
8. Questions, comments from Commissioners – Does Westover Waves pay dues to Westover pool and does Parks and Recreation staff help with the web site? No to both questions, but they do use Westover lifeguards. Who will maintain the down town park and who will fund the maintenance? The committee for the down town park will do fundraisers to raise money for the maintenance and Parks and Recreation, Public Works, a combination of the two, or the maintenance will be contracted out. Does Parks and Recreation maintain the Turner Pavilion? No, Public Works does. What about parking? The parking area in the municipal lot will be reduced to 19 spaces. The first week the pool was open, it had to close for awhile due to too many patrons. The lifeguards could not see the bottom of the pool. Are we undercharging? Was the weather a factor? We will continue to monitor and may have to raise the rates. Lee felt the temperature and the fact that school had just dismissed for the summer was a contributing factor. Was there a dog left at the dog park? Not that we are aware of. Congratulations to Ed Steele on the Disc Golf Tournament. Ten park benches, made from a felled Hemlock tree from one of our parks, were placed in Westover Park. Suggestions for upcoming commission meetings: go over the activity guide and have someone from the after school program come and explain the program.
9. Adjournment – with no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

NO MEETING IN JULY